GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2070
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2017
Impact of Agro Chemicals on Pests
Patel Shri Dilip;Shetti Shri Raju alias Devappa Anna

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that pesticides which have been banned globally are still in use in the country which have an adverse impact on human health as well as on livestock, if so, the details and the outcome thereof;

(b) whether any assessment has been made regarding the impact of agro chemicals on the targeted pests and subsequently the production of foodgrains, vegetables and fruits on human health and livestocks and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken/is planning to take any measures to regulate the usage of inorganic chemicals and promote biological pest control measures and educate the farmers regarding judicious use of pesticides; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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(a): There are 66 pesticides which are banned, restricted, withdrawn in one or more countries but continue to be registered in India. The list of such pesticides is at Annexure I. An expert committee was constituted under Dr. Anupam Verma, Former Professor, Indian Agriculture Research Institute (IARI), to carry out technical review of these pesticides. The Expert Committee, inter alia, recommended 13 pesticides to be completely banned and 6 pesticides to be phased out by 2020.

(b): The Registration Committee, constituted under section 5 of the Insecticides Act, 1968, grant registration of pesticides after evaluating toxicity data submitted by the applicant from the Good Laboratory Practices (GLP) accredited laboratories generated on animal and microbial test systems. The data is scientifically extrapolated to assess safety to human beings and environment. Further, technical review of registered pesticide/insecticide are being conducted regularly to evaluate its impact for their continued use or otherwise in the country.

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(c) & (d): The Government is implementing "Strengthening and Modernization of Pest Management Approach in India" through 35 Central Integrated Pest Management Centres (CIPMCs) of Directorate of Plant Protection Quarantine and Storage established across the country with an aim to promote Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach . CIPMCs inter alia, produce biological agents for release in the fields, conserve natural bio-control agents, promote bio-pesticides as an alternative to chemical pesticides and advocate judicious and safe use of chemical pesticides as a last resort. These activities are implemented through Farmers Field Schools (FFSs), 2 days and 5 days training programmes and season long training program for State Agriculture Extension officers and NGOs / Private Bodies. A 'Grow Safe Food' campaign has been initiated disseminating message of safe and judicious use of pesticides to farmers and other stakeholders. Package of practices for control of pests and diseases in 87 crops have been revised to include techniques to reduce dependence on chemical pesticides and encourage use of bio-pesticides and other alternative plant protection measures.